Constitution of Commission for Safai karmacharis

†1309. SHRI DEVDAS APTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where Commission for Safai Karmacharis has been constituted;

(b) the reasons for not setting up the Commission in the remaining States; and

(c) the time bound scheme for setting up of the Commission in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) It is the discretion of the State Governments to set-up the Safai Karamcharis Commission. As per the available information, such Commissions have been set-up in Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Social Justice

1310. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any committee to look into the conditions of Muslims;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) the time-frame set to submit its report;

(d) the number of meetings held by the Committee; and

(e) the decisions arrived at, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted a High Level Committee to prepare a comprehensive report on social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Composition of the Committee is as follows:

Justice Rajindar Sachar	Chairperson
Shri Saiyid Hamid	Member
Dr. T.K. Ooman	Member
Shri M.A. Basith	Member
Dr. Rakesh Basant	Member
Dr. Akhtar Majeed	Member
Dr. Abu Saleh Shariff	Member Secretary.

(c) to (e) Meetings are held as per requirement and the Committee has to present its report by June 2006.

Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship

1311. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have revised the eligibility criteria for award for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship for SCs/STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the original criteria which was approved by the Planning Commission in August, 2004;

(d) the reasons for changing the eligibility criteria;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(h) whether the Planning Commission has taken strong objection to this unilateral change in the eligibility criteria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (h) The eligibility criteria and other modalities have been worked out in consultation with Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Planning Commission. The scheme is in the final stage of consideration.